

Machine Screw Head Styles Reference Chart

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Machine screws come in various head styles, each suited for different applications and aesthetic requirements. Choose the right head style based on your application's profile, torque, and appearance needs.

Common Head Styles

Pan Head

Rounded top with flat bearing surface

- Most common general-purpose head
- Low profile design
- Large bearing surface
- Good for sheet metal & electronics

Flat Head (Countersunk)

Conical head, sits flush when countersunk

- 82° countersunk angle (standard)
- Flush or below surface
- Requires countersinking
- Ideal for hinges & hardware

Round Head

Domed top, larger than pan head

- Higher profile than pan head
- Decorative appearance
- Strong bearing surface
- Common in older machinery

Oval Head

Combination of flat and round

- Countersunk with rounded top
- Decorative appearance
- Partially visible when installed
- Used in furniture & cabinets

Fillister Head

Cylindrical with flat top

- Deep slot or socket drive
- High torque capacity
- Used in machinery
- Small head diameter

Truss Head

Extra wide, low-profile head

- Very large bearing surface
- Low profile
- Prevents pull-through
- Ideal for soft materials

Socket Head Cap

Cylindrical head with hex socket

- Very high torque capacity
- Hex socket drive (Allen key)
- Precision machined
- High strength applications

Button Head (Socket)

Low-profile dome with hex socket

- Lower profile than socket cap
- Hex socket drive
- Aesthetic appearance
- Good for visible locations

Flat Socket Head

Countersunk with hex socket

- Flush installation
- High torque capacity
- Hex socket drive
- Clean, modern look

Head Style Comparison

Head Style	Profile Height	Bearing Surface	Torque Capacity	Best Applications
Pan Head	Low	Medium	Medium	General purpose, electronics
Flat Head	Flush	Large (countersink)	Medium	Hinges, trim, finished surfaces
Round Head	High	Medium	Medium	Decorative, traditional
Oval Head	Medium (countersunk)	Medium	Medium	Furniture, decorative
Fillister Head	High	Small	High	Machinery, precision work
Truss Head	Very Low	Very Large	Low-Medium	Soft materials, thin sheets
Socket Head Cap	High	Small	Very High	Machinery, high-stress
Button Head	Low-Medium	Medium	High	Visible locations, aesthetics

Head Style	Profile Height	Bearing Surface	Torque Capacity	Best Applications
Flat Socket	Flush	Large (countersink)	Very High	Machinery, flush mounting

Selection Guidelines

- **Need flush surface?** Use flat head or flat socket head (requires countersinking)
- **High torque required?** Socket head cap or flat socket head provide best grip
- **Soft or thin material?** Truss head distributes load over larger area
- **Visible application?** Button head or oval head for aesthetic appeal
- **General purpose?** Pan head is the most versatile choice

Measuring Length by Head Type

- **Flat/Oval Heads:** Measure total length including head
- **All Other Heads:** Measure from under head to tip
- Always verify measurement method before ordering

Common Drive Types by Head

- **Pan/Round/Flat:** Phillips, slotted, combo
- **Socket Heads:** Hex socket (Allen key)
- **Truss/Oval:** Phillips, square, combo